



**Black Dog  
Institute**



**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM**

Lived experience of unemployment interviews

A qualitative study of the lived experience of unemployment, and the role of mental health smartphone apps  
Dr Mark Deady

**1. What is the research study about?**

You are invited to take part in this research study. The research study aims to interview people with lived experience of unemployment to understand what their experience is/was like with respect to mental health, and how mental health smartphone applications relate to that experience. You have been invited because you have expressed an interest in participating in the interview and you have provided your contact details to the researchers.

**2. Who is conducting this research?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School/Faculty or Organisation</b>
<b>Chief Investigator</b>	Dr Mark Deady	UNSW School of Psychiatry & Black Dog Institute
<b>Co-Investigator/s</b>	Prof Samuel Harvey	UNSW School of Psychiatry & Black Dog Institute
	Dr Andrew Arena	UNSW School of Psychiatry & Black Dog Institute
	Mr Daniel Collins	Black Dog Institute
	Ms Sophia Mobbs	Black Dog Institute
	Ms Vera Kravchuk	Black Dog Institute
	Ms Danielle Bennett	Black Dog Institute

**Research Funder:** This research is being funded by The Prevention Hub.

**3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. The research study is looking recruit people who meet the following criteria:

- Aged between 18-65 years
- Australian resident
- Within the past 2 years, have been unemployed for a period of three months or longer
- Good English comprehension

Participants who meet the following criteria will be excluded from the study:

- Do not own a smartphone (participants in this study will need at least basic skills and experience in using smartphones)  
Were unemployed because they were unable to work or unavailable for work (e.g., due to injury or caring responsibilities).

**4. Do I have to take part in this research study?**

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the study at any stage.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary);
- Sign and return the consent form if you decide to participate in the study;
- Take a copy of this form with you to keep.



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### **5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?**

If you agree to participate you will be asked to complete the following research procedures.

An interview will be conducted either face-to-face or via online videoconferencing, depending on your preference and the latest COVID restrictions. You will be asked questions about your personal experience of unemployment, including the thoughts, feelings and behaviours you experienced, as well as your use of mental health smartphone apps (if any) during this period.

The interview will take place at the Black Dog Institute (Hospital road, Randwick NSW) or via Zoom videocall, and will take approximately 60 minutes. The interviews will be audio recorded, and the team will need your consent for this before participating.

There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid. However, as an appreciation of your time, you will be reimbursed with a gift card worth AUD \$60.

You may feel that some of the questions we ask are stressful or upsetting. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question, or you may stop immediately. If you become upset or distressed as a result of your participation in the research project, the research team will be able to provide contact details for free support services (one of which is provided in section 10 below), or arrange a free check-in with a clinical psychologist. Any counselling or support will be provided by qualified staff who are not members of the research team.

### **6. What will happen to information about me?**

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you for the research study.

The research team will store the data collected from you for this research project for:

- A minimum of 7 years after the completion of the research;

The information about you will be stored in a:

- Re-identifiable format where any identifiers such as your name, address, date of birth will be replaced with a unique code.

You can withdraw consent for your data to be shared for use in future research.

Your information will only be shared in a format that will not identify you.

- Information collected from you in an electronic format stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators.
- Audio recordings will be stored on a UNSW password protected OneDrive only accessible to the approved research investigators. A professional transcription service may be used to transcribe the audio recording. Recordings will only be made available after a confidentiality agreement has been signed.

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make



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a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

**7. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?**

The research team intend to publish and report the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you.

If you would like to receive a copy of the results you can let the research team know by inserting your email or mailing address in the consent form. We will only use these details to send you a summary of the study's findings. If you would also like the opportunity to discuss your thoughts on the study's findings, you have the choice to opt-in for this. Doing so is completely voluntary and will help the researchers to check whether the findings accurately reflect your experiences.

**8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?**

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do so by completing the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form' which is provided at the end of this document or you can ring the research team and tell them you no longer want to participate. Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with UNSW Sydney or the Black Dog Institute. If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. You can request that any identifiable information about you be withdrawn from the research project.

**9. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?**

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

**Complaints Contact**

<b>Position</b>	UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator
<b>Telephone</b>	+ 61 2 9385 6222
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:humanethics@unsw.edu.au">humanethics@unsw.edu.au</a>
<b>HC Reference Number</b>	HC210358

**10. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?**

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

**Research Team Contact Details**

<b>Name</b>	Ms Sophia Mobbs
<b>Position</b>	Research Assistant
<b>Telephone</b>	(02) 9065 9263
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:sophia.mobbs@blackdog.org.au">sophia.mobbs@blackdog.org.au</a>

**Chief Investigator**

<b>Name</b>	Dr Mark Deady
<b>Position</b>	Postdoctoral Research Fellow



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<b>Telephone</b>	(02) 9065 9144
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:m.deady@blackdog.org.au">m.deady@blackdog.org.au</a>

**Support Services Contact Details**

If at any stage during the study, you become distressed or require additional support from someone not involved in the research please call:

<b>Name/Organisation</b>	Beyond Blue – <a href="http://www.beyondblue.org.au">www.beyondblue.org.au</a>
<b>Position</b>	Counsellors/information
<b>Telephone</b>	1300 22 4636
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:online.beyondblue.org.au/email/#/send">online.beyondblue.org.au/email/#/send</a>

**Other Mental Health Resources**

Protecting mental health during unemployment:

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/unemployment>

Online tool to build a self-care plan:

<https://lifeinmind.org.au/research/self-care>